

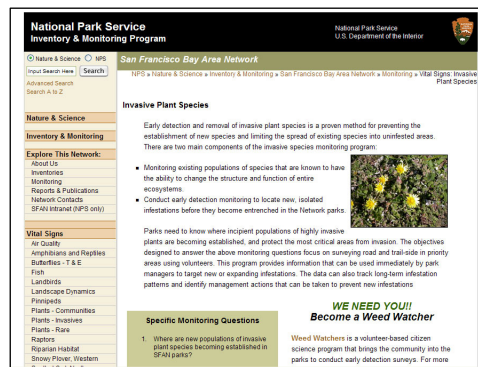
Inventory and Monitoring Program



The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.

Project Highlights – March 2007

Check out the New and Improved Spotted Owl and Invasive Plants Webpages. For the past month, Deborah, our Science Communication Intern, has been updating the Vital Signs webpages for the network. These pages have a more comprehensive explanation of the monitoring objectives, protocol, and reports of the I & M Vital Signs. Highlights include: more pictures, an interactive Spotted Owl model, and downloadable “Plants out of Place” ID cards which are used in conjunction with the Weed Watchers program. View the websites at:



http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/Spotted_Owl/birds.cfm

http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/Invasives/invasives.cfm

A New I&M Program Intranet site coming soon!!

Coho Spawner End of the Year Update. Spawner surveys started last year on November 20th with a trek along Redwood Creek. A few adult coho were observed represented the earliest return of coho since monitoring began in 1997. December turned out to be the most productive month for coho spawning activity due to the huge rainfall received in the area. The spawner surveys ended in mid-February with the steelhead spawning still going strong. The full report can be viewed at: http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/fish/stream_fish.cfm Field work has now shifted to smolt trapping. **If you want to contribute to the monitoring of coho and steelhead in Marin County, become a VOLUNTEER!** There are plenty of opportunities to help out with smolt trapping for the next three months. For more information contact Casey_Del_Real@partner.nps.gov or call 415-464-5141.

Several ‘Missing’ Plants Found at Presidio

Botanists probably thought they would never see the quillwort, a small grass-like fern relative, the hayfield tarweed or the tuberous sanicle, ever again in San Francisco. Well they were pleasantly surprised last month when all three of these ‘missing’ plants were found at Presidio sites. These plants were last seen in the area in the 1890’s and 1930’s. The full story was published in Sfgate: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/02/28/HOGPFOANO11.DTL>

Spotted Owl Monitoring Season Underway

March 1st marked the official start of the spotted owl monitoring season. A training workshop was held for Muir Woods and Point Reyes volunteers, and NPS interns. There was lots of enthusiasm for the upcoming season as they reviewed protocols, practiced map and compass skills, and brushed-up on spotted and barred owl calls.